

Message Text

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SUBJECT:FLANK SECURITY

REF: A. NATO 2024, B. NATO 1996, C. VIENNA 185

1. FYI: PURPOSE OF OUR GUIDANCE ON PRESENT FORMULA FOR DEALING WITH FLANK SECURITY HAS BEEN TO INSURE ONLY GENERAL REFERENCE WOULD BE MADE TO GEOGRAPHIC AREAS WHERE WITHDRAWN FORCES COULD NOT BE REDEPLOYED. IT WAS NOT OUR INTENTION TO DIVORCE FLANK SECURITY FROM NON-CIRCUMVENTION ENTIRELY. INDEED, EARLIER WE HAD ATTEMPTED (UNSUCCESSFULLY) TO CONVINCE FLANKS THAT THEIR CONCERNS COULD BE TAKEN CARE OF IN CONTEXT OF NON-CIRCUMVENTION. NEVERTHELESS, SINCE IT IS PREMATURE FOR THE ALLIANCE TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF NON-CIRCUMVENTION, THERE IS SOME MERIT TO THE ITALIAN SUGGESTION TO DELETE REFERENCE TO NON-CIRCUMVENTION IN THE FLANK SECURITY GUIDANCE (REFTEL A, PARA. 4). END FYI.

2. MISSION MAY APPROACH DUTCH AND ASK IF THEY WOULD AGREE TO DELETION SUGGESTED BY ITALIANS IF THIS CHANGE WOULD PRODUCE ALLIANCE CONSENSUS. IF DUTCH CAN ACCEPT DELETION IN SPC, YOU SHOULD SUPPORT DELETION; OTHERWISE YOU SHOULD REMAINS SILENT. YOU MAY REASSURE DUTCH THAT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE ALLIANCE WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS NON-CIR-

CUMVENTION ISSUE AND THAT WE BELIEVE ACCEPTING PRESENT FORMULATION WITH ITALIAN DELETION WILL NOT PREJUDICEFULL AND TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF NON-CIRCUMVENTION.

3. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO DELETE, AS RECOMMENDED REF C, FIRST SENTENCE OF FORMULATION (REFTEL B) WHICH IS IN NATURE OF PREAMBULAR LANGUAGE AND WHICH DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY REFER TO NON-CIRCUMVENTION. WE BELIEVE THAT ARGUMENTS NOTED IN PARA. 6 OF REFTTEL A ARE PERSUASIVE WHEN APPLIED TO THIS SENTENCE.

4. WE CAN ACCEPT REVISED BELGIAN FOOTNOTE (REFTEL A, PARA 3). ACCEPTANCE OF ITALIAN DELETION MAKES UK LANGUAGE SUGGESTED PARA. 5, REFTTEL A UNNECESSARY. KISSINGER

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